



Library of
Michigan

Researching Your Civil War Ancestors at the Library of Michigan

Presented by
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October 2006

Family History Month

Library of Michigan



Branches of Service

◆ Union and Confederate

- Army
- Navy
- State Militia
- Marines



Types of Records

- ◆ Rosters
- ◆ Compiled service
- ◆ Pension
- ◆ Unit histories
- ◆ Burials
- ◆ Censuses



Other Types

- ◆ Draft registrations
- ◆ G.A.R. Records
- ◆ Civil War prisons
- ◆ Diaries
- ◆ Letters
- ◆ Manuscripts



Locating Records

- ◆ National Archives
 - Pension files, service records
- ◆ State Archives
 - County records, discharge papers, miscellaneous
- ◆ County courts
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah and local Family History Centers
- ◆ Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana



Rosters

- ◆ Identify specific unit
 - Basic information needed to find more information I.e. unit, company, rank of soldier
- ◆ Springboard to further research



Rosters

- ◆ Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865
- ◆ Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865
- ◆ Annual Reports of State Adjutant General



Compiled Service Records

- ◆ Record of an individual's service
- ◆ Name, rank, unit, state, dates mustered in and out, date of change in rank, date, place and nature of discharge.
- ◆ May also show age, residence at time of enlistment, occupation, and physical description.
- ◆ Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers...
 - “Brown Books”

American Civil War Soldiers Record

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Name: | George Traver , |
| Residence: | Ingham County, Michigan |
| Enlistment Date: | 05 January 1864 |
| Distinguished Service: | DISTINGUISHED SERVICE |
| Side Served: | Union |
| State Served: | Michigan |
| Unit Numbers: | 1114 1114 |
| Service Record: | Enlisted as a Private on 05 January 1864 at the age of 31 Enlisted in on 06 January 1864. Mustered out on 20 August 1865 in New Orleans, LA |

Source Citation: Side served: *Union*; State served: *Michigan*; Enlistment date: *05 January 1864*..



More on Service Records

- ◆ If hospitalized during service, may show age, birthplace, marital status, residence, and date and place wounded.
- ◆ If soldier died, a casualty sheet shows date and place of death and sometimes next of kin.



American Civil War Soldiers Record

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Name: | George F Colby , |
| Enlistment Date: | 13 July 1863 |
| Distinguished Service: | DISTINGUISHED SERVICE |
| Side Served: | Union |
| State Served: | Michigan |
| Unit Numbers: | 1067 1067 |
| Service Record: | Enlisted as a Farrier on 13 July 1863 at the age of 40 Enlisted in on 02 September 1863. Died on 20 November 1863 in Grand Rapids, MI |

Source Citation: Side served: *Union*; State served: *Michigan*; Enlistment date: *13 July 1863*..

Source Information:

Historical Data Systems, *com*, *American Civil War Soldiers* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: MyFamily.com, Inc.



Compiled Service Records

- ◆ Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers...
 - Michigan
 - CT, IL, IN, MN, NY, OH, PA, WI, and U.S. Colored Troops
- ◆ NATF Form 86 can be ordered at this URL
 - <http://www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html#part-a>

A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the slide. It features a close-up of several military medals and a compass. At the top is a medal with a blue ribbon and a circular emblem. Below it is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom is a portion of a compass rose showing cardinal and ordinal directions.

Union Pensions

- ◆ Had to apply for pension to prove entitlement
- ◆ Pension Index File [1861-1934]
 - Alpha by last name
 - Date of filing, application and certificate no.
 - Primarily Union servicemen and dependents
 - On Microfilm and Ancestry Library Edition
- ◆ NATF Form 85
 - (can be ordered from same URL as Form 86)



Union Pensions

- ◆ Genealogical information you may find:
 - Date of birth and place
 - Spouse's maiden name
 - Date and place of marriage; subsequent marriages
 - Children's names and birth dates
 - Date and place of discharge; residences since discharge
 - Death and marriage dates/places
 - Service related injuries and resulting physical disabilities
 - Status of discharge i.e. honorable or dishonorable

[Back to record](#)

Microsoft Photo Editor - traver pension.jpg

File Edit View Image Effects Window Help

100%

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| NAME OF SOLDIER | Traver, George | | | |
| NAME OF DEPENDENT | Widow, | | | |
| | Minor, | | | |
| SERVICE | 19 1 Mich. H. A. | | | |
| DATE OF FILING | CLASS | APPLICATION NO. | CERTIFICATE NO. | STATE FROM WHICH FILED |
| 1885 Nov. 1 | Invalid, | 677,692 | 478,171 | Mich. |
| | Widow, | | | |
| | Minor, | | | |

Cursor: (744,230) Selection: 0,0:767,579 W,H: 768,580



Pension Acts

- ◆ Different acts of Congress were passed at various times to qualify veterans for benefits
 - 21 acts between 1861-1918
- ◆ 2 main pension systems
 - General Law: war-related disabilities
 - Service Pension: for military time served



Confederate Pensions

- ◆ Primarily issued by individual states
- ◆ Indexes at the Library of Michigan:
 - Arkansas
 - Kentucky
 - Georgia
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Florida



Confederate Pensions

- ◆ Few files at National Archives
- ◆ Check in county, state archives or libraries
- ◆ Some indexes online
 - Texas State Library and Archives
 - Tennessee State Library and Archives
- ◆ “The Source...” Edited by Szucs and Luebking.



Unit Histories

- ◆ Activities of a specific unit
- ◆ Letters, diaries, field reports, deck logs, et al
- ◆ Published history or memoir by an individual
- ◆ Photographs



Unit Histories

- ◆ *Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narrative.*
 - Confederacy, New England, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest & West, Navy & Misc.
- ◆ *War of the Rebellion*
- ◆ *Official records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*
- ◆ http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/moa_browse.html



Burials

- ◆ *Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries.*
- ◆ U.S. Army. Quartermaster Corps. Cemetery Branch. *Card records of headstones provided for deceased Union Civil War veterans, ca. 1879-ca. 1903.*



Special Veterans Census

- ◆ 1890 U.S. Census: Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans
- ◆ 1894 Michigan state census
 - Not available for all counties



Draft Registrations

- ◆ Enrollment Act of 1863, 37th Congress
 - Males between 20 and 45
Exemptions: mentally or physically impaired, only son of a widow, son of infirm parents, widower with dependent children.
 - Class I: 20-35 and unmarried men between 35 & 45
 - Class II: All others



Draft Registrations

- ◆ Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, 1863-1865, National Archives Record Group 110
- ◆ Need to know Congressional District of soldiers residence
 - *Congressional Directory* 38th Congress, 2nd session 1st. Ed. Rare Fed Docs Y4.P93/1:

A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the slide. It features a close-up of several G.A.R. medals. At the top is a circular medal with a starburst design. Below it is a large Maltese cross medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom is a circular compass rose with directional letters (N, S, E, W) and degree markings.

G.A.R. Records

- ◆ G.A.R. Grand Army of the Republic
 - URL for finding GAR Posts
 - <http://suvchw.org/garposts/index.htm>
 - Types of Records
 - Minutes, memorial books, maps
 - Financial records, photographs
 - State Archives has some Michigan records
 - Some annual encampment minutes at LM



Prison Record Data

- ◆ Name, rank, company
- ◆ State
- ◆ Date and place of capture
- ◆ Date of death
- ◆ Cause of death
- ◆ Place of burial

Andersonville PRISON RECORDS



[New Search](#)
[Search Fort McHenry
Prison](#)

_____/ KING, LEANDER/

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Side | Union |
| Unit Name | 8 Michigan Cavalry |
| Regiment | 8 |
| State | Michigan |
| Function | Cavalry |
| Company | G |
| Rank | Private |
| Type | Buried in National Cemetery |
| Capture Date | Unknown |
| Capture Site | Unknown |
| Alternate Name | N |



Sultana Disaster

- ◆ April 27, 1865
- ◆ Union soldiers released from southern Confederate prisons
- ◆ *Records of the Sultana disaster, April 27, 1865*
 - 3 microfilm reels
- ◆ *Disaster on the Mississippi: The Sultana Explosion, April 27, 1865* by Gene Saelecker
- ◆ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/sultana.htm>



Diaries, Letters, Manuscripts

- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ State archives
- ◆ Local historical societies
- ◆ <http://www.USGenWeb.com>
- ◆ Unit histories in print and online

Questions?



Library of Michigan